

times accumulating more than ten strokes. We could not pay until we received money from our uncle in Hsinchu.

We had the same problem with our rent. We lived in a very tiny room with a bathroom right outside our room. We chose that room because it was cheap. When we failed to pay the rent, the landlord would embarrass us by raising his voice so that others could hear him. My brother and I had no choice but to swallow our pride and continue to live there. As for tuition, we had more than once asked Mr. Shen Ping to be our guarantor. He would take us to see the president of the University, praising Hsiao-yen and me as good students and asking that we be allowed to enroll before paying tuition since we didn't always have the tuition money on time. He also wrote a guarantee, pledging to pay our debts if we didn't. Through these delaying tactics, we were able to finish our college.

From a very early period, Grandfather taught my brother and me to recite poetry, and Uncle taught us classical Chinese. Because of these early lessons we had an interest in Chinese studies. After entering Soochow University, I enjoyed my Chinese studies classes very much—like a fish taking to water. But during my freshman year, a law suit against my uncle determined my career choice.

That trouble started with my uncle. He had borrowed money from someone and did not pay it back. But the lender didn't start any legal actions against my uncle; someone else went to the court and asked the court to seize our house. Uncle became very upset and he felt he was not being fairly treated. It was true that he owed someone money, but he felt it would be more appropriate for the lender to sue him instead of a third party. After the lawsuit was filed, Uncle had no idea about how to respond. He tried to study the law books of the Republic of China. It was all to no avail. He couldn't prevent his house from being seized.

Uncle's trouble devastated me. I thought that if I were a law student, I would know how to help my family. At the very least, I would be able to write petitions and to comprehend the legal procedures. Perhaps our legal rights would have been preserved and our house might not have been seized. After witnessing my uncle's misfortune, I made a quiet decision that I would switch from Chinese studies and study law.

The first year, there were many candidates for the law program. Only one space was available that year, but I placed second in a competitive examination. So I didn't get into the law program and felt very bad. The following year, there was no space at all. The third year I still wanted to switch to law, but a teacher told me that since I already had two years of Chinese studies, I would have wasted a lot of time because I would have to start from the beginning again. He advised me to finish my degree in Chinese studies first. If I switched to law after that, I would have a solid foundation in Chinese language training and would be a better lawyer because of my language skills. He also told me about a few well-known attorneys who were Chinese majors first before they studied law. The teacher suggested that I follow that route.

He convinced me to wait. I finished my degree in Chinese studies, served in the Army, and then returned to Soochow University as a sophomore majoring in law. The law program at Soochow takes five years to complete, so I spent a total of eight years, earning two bachelors' degrees from Soochow University.

Because I had tasted the joy of learning, I was a better law student than most. Right before an examination, my classmates would

often ask me to help them review our course of study. Because of this type of prepping fellow classmates, I gained a very good understanding of law.

After Soochow University, I traveled to the U.S. for graduate studies. First I received my Master's degree in political science from the Southern Methodist University in Texas. Later I received my L.L.M. and J.D. degrees from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. When I returned to Taiwan in 1978, I was thirty-four years old. I was very glad that I had completed my studies by the age of 35—in accordance with the timetable I had set up for myself.

I have always maintained that you have to be very serious about your studies before you can reap any rewards. Your determination decides what you will achieve. Regardless of what stage or level of learning you pursue, you must always be enthusiastic about learning and you must never stop gaining knowledge. When I studied in the U.S., I totally immersed myself in my studies. Nothing distracted me. For example, my classnotes were sometimes sloppy because I had taken them very quickly. After I returned home, I listened to the tapes I had made of the class and recopied all of my classnotes so I would have very neat notes to review later. Only after such painstaking work was I able to identify the issues I needed to focus on as well as grasp the professor's main points. Later when I became a teacher, I shared my learning experiences with my students.

I was in the United States for six years. In order to earn money for tuition I worked every summer. The first summer, a friend of an American roommate gave me a ride every day to a construction site. I helped lay foundations for houses. American houses are very simple to construct. My fellow workers and I would dig a hole in the ground, set up steel rods and pour cement. The rest would be taken care of by a different crew. So our foundation crew moved rapidly from job site to job site. The Texas sun is very hot, and I perspired profusely. The first day after work, my fingers were bruised and bleeding so I had to wrap them in bandages. The following day I wore gloves. A few days later, I wore out my gloves. For the entire summer, I worked with my hands, laying crude steel rods and pouring cement. I earned only three dollars an hour. But it was good money then, and I didn't mind all the hard work.

I also worked as a waiter. I started out as a busboy; my job was to help waiters move tables, to clear tables for waiters, and to take the dirty dishes to the kitchen.

Besides construction work and waiting on tables, I also worked as a security guard at a beer factory and at a bank. Wearing a tight-fitting uniform and carrying a gun, I made my rounds every hour. The rest of the time was essentially mine. It was easy work and the job was ideal for me. I had plenty of time to study. That summer, I had enough spare time to translate a law book into Chinese.

Grandmother is the most important person in my life. Hard times in Taitung did not overcome her. She always told us that poverty would never crush anyone and that everyone must have pride and ambition. She never mentioned our father. When we were kids, we would ask her about him. She assured us that our father was an upright and courageous man—a very good man. Our thoughtful and loving grandmother enabled us to have a normal childhood and taught us to be resourceful and respectful.

When I was in the last year of senior high school, Grandmother was already in poor health. She still got up early every morning to do some light housework such as dusting tables and chairs. She patiently welcomed

each new day. Then one morning it was eerily quiet. I did not hear her comforting activity. When I rushed to her bedside, she had already died in her sleep.

Grandmother has passed on. I will never forget what she taught me. She instilled a typical Chinese attitude that has deeply permeated my life. Grandmother has enabled Hsiao-yen and me to live normal productive lives despite all the speculation about our parents. Grandmother gave Hsiao-yen and me the support to live our lives with dignity and pride.

Ten years ago when I finished my studies in the U.S., Soochow University happened to have a teaching position available. So I returned to my alma mater to start a career in academia. I have always been attracted to law. I have always believed that for a country to thrive, it must have its own body of law. For example, if the United States did not have a strong legal system and Constitution, all of its material goods and scientific progress would not be enough to sustain its social cohesiveness. Here in Taiwan we must head in a similar direction. It does not matter what career a person has chosen—whether education, academic studies, administration or any other field—he too can serve both his society and country and find meaning in life if he is totally dedicated and selfless. Even though not all of us will be successful in all we do, as long as we do our best in our chosen field, we will be completely fulfilling our mission in life. This is my attitude towards life. This is what I expect of myself. This is what I pledge to myself for now and the future.

## EXPORTS, JOBS, AND GROWTH ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 10, 1996*

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of U.S. exports, quality jobs for American workers and H.R. 3759. This bill reauthorizes the Overseas Private Investment Corporation [OPIC] which plays a crucial role in encouraging and supporting U.S. private investment overseas. This bill is important to my home State of New York which ranks behind only California and Texas in total exports.

OPIC enables U.S. companies to play a major role in overseas markets. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union this need has become greater, and there is no better time for American companies to get a foot in these markets than now and by passing this bill, we will create jobs for Americans through the exports which are created. By the end of this month, OPIC estimates that their projects will generate \$6 billion in U.S. exports and nearly 20,000 jobs.

OPIC operates as a self-sustaining institution, and there is no cost to the taxpayers. In fact, OPIC generated an income of \$189 and had reserves of more than \$2.4 billion and since 1971 OPIC has supported investments that will generate more than \$43 billion in exports.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for a pro-jobs, pro-American measure.